

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

President Ford
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State
and Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME:

Monday, January 20, 1975
9:25 - 10:15 a.m.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

PLACE:

The Oval Office

Kissinger: From a foreign policy point of view, it would be best if we could keep Jackson alive for another 6-9 months. Church and the others are starting to come up to make cooperative noises.

On the Middle East, Eilts will talk to Sadat sometime after tomorrow. Sadat is at Aswan.

I have now announced the official dates for my visit. I am not sure of Israel, whether they will go ahead or whether they are making good noises just to put themselves in a good position if things fail.

The President: They should know we won't move if things collapse.

Kissinger: Percy is actually being pretty good. He is saying it to the wrong people. He should tell the Arabs we are weak, so anything we do looks good. But I don't know if he can stand up when he gets home -- he came out for a Palestinian state.

The Congress is crushed by the Trade Bill. No one is crowing about being tough on the Soviets.

[He hands the President a paper on the British and French attacking us in Saudi Arabia. King Hussein fears a coup in Saudi Arabia.]

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The President: Who would do it?

Kissinger: Hussein thinks some Qadhafi type. Faisal depends on the Bedouins, so the high prices are leading to his downfall, as they move into the cities and drop their tribal loyalties.

We have a contingency plan with the Iranians for the case of a Saudi coup.

We ought to help Hussein. He wants maps and some weapons carriers. Mostly he wants information.

The President: How would we handle it?

Kissinger: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] It probably is best if I discuss it with Hussein when you tie up with the United States. The tragedy is it is partly true. We have been cutting aid to Ethiopia, and when the Emperor depends on the Army, that is the prescription for disaster.

The President: Could Jordan be effective?

Kissinger: Jordan has a pretty good army. Better than the Saudis.

The President: Use your judgment.

Kissinger: Portugal is going as predicted. Soares is massively incompetent. The fight now is over the unified labor law. If he leaves the government, the Communists will be the only organized force and either they will take over or the army will. [REDACTED]

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The President: Let's do it if it leaks or not.

Kissinger: We will have an NSC meeting on MBFR. It is mostly briefing and could cover SALT as well -- or we could do it separately.

The President: Let's do it separately. I would like to have frequent NSC meetings.

Barry told me Saturday that he would beat the hell out of the Kennedy resolution. We need to talk to him.

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Kissinger: But that is a good attitude.

We can use the trade bill to good effect -- here and with the Soviets. We can go back to the Congress after the summit. I think we should sit tight now. Even Stevenson is crying uncle.

We can keep the Soviets quiet for now with CSCE, then hold out prospects for a new trade bill. The Congressional attitude on the trade bill is very sheepish.

On the Chinese thing [the National People's Congress] you have read the brief. The only thing not there is reaffirmation about the Soviet conflict. My view is that Chou En-Lai hid out in a hospital while the brawl was going on. All of his guys are in key positions. Mao's wife wasn't mentioned and another wife was made a Vice Chairman. Most of the experts think Mao is being toned down a bit. His seeing Franz-Josef Strauss is proof of their anti-Soviet line. Strauss is wildly anti-Soviet.

The President: Whitlam is in trouble.

Kissinger: He is no good.

The President: But Cairns is worse.

Kissinger: Whitlam is the best in his party.

Events in Cyprus show Karamanlis barely has Makarios under control.

The President: I notice there are two meetings a week.

Kissinger: Actually three. A long meeting today and I hope the airport opened this week. There are talks about 10,000 Greek refugees going back. If we can get these two things, I think Brademas is looking for a way out.

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